

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application.

Claim 1 is rejected.

Claims 2-6 are objected to.

Claims 1-7 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 8-12 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action indicated that claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,017,903 to Kripplev, Sr. Additionally claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German Published Application DE 4305653 A1 by Rainer et al. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections with respect to claim 1 have now been overcome by amendment. Pending claims 1-6 have been cancelled from the application. Applicant submits a new claim 8 which includes all of the limitations of the allowable combination of claim 1 and claim 2, that was indicated by the Office Action as being allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome by the newly added claims and the subsequent cancellation of claims 1-6. As such, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 and allowance of newly added claims 8-12.

Allowable Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 2-6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the permitting claims 2-6 to be allowed. Applicant respectfully submits newly added claims 8-12 which reflect all of the limitations of allowable claims 2-6. In particular, Independent claim 8 contains all of the limitations of original claims 1-2. Dependent claims 9-12 are equivalent to the previous dependent claims 3-6 and have retained the same dependencies. Claims 1-6 have been cancelled from this application, therefore, Applicant requests allowance of the newly added claims 8-12 containing matter indicated in the Office Action as being allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks claims 8-12 have been indicated as allowable and are patentably distinguishable because the cited patents, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest or render obvious, the present invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the pending claims are properly allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at
(248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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